



SUN 8:15 AM  
DECEMBER 1, 2024

**Worship Service** for THE LORD'S DAY  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
**FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

## Welcome to Worship

Words printed in **bold** are for the congregation to speak in unison.

\* An invitation to rise in body or spirit.

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND INVITATIONS

Rev. Roger Owens

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Renee, Tom, & Trey Kelly

From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.**

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

**Come, Lord Jesus. We wait in hope.**

### \*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

### INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER AND CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

#### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to exchange signs of reconciliation and peace with others.*

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 21:25-36 (NT, pg. 85)  
Jeremiah 33:14-16 (OT, pg. 738)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON

"No One Mourns the Wicked"

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

*Please complete a connect card and place it in the offering plate.*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*This is Christ's table, and all who seek to follow Christ are welcome at this table, regardless of their age or understanding. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to participate in the sacrament. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty...

...to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

**Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*Today we will receive communion by intinction. Starting with the front row, come forward by the middle aisle with open hands. Receive a piece of bread, dip it into the juice, and eat. Gluten-free sealed elements are available on the table.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

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## Participants Today

Rev. Ginger A. Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor (ginger@fcpc.us)

Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor (roger@fcpc.us)

Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor (rebecca@fcpc.us)

Renee, Tom, & Trey Kelly, Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

Richard Pickerton, Guest Pianist